

THE COLUMBIAN. BLOOMSBURG, PA. THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1908. THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

(Special Correspondence.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 7, 1908. The results of the so-called riding tests of mounted officers of the army have been made public and the report is not only interesting, but like the late Artemus Ward's Kangaroo, is "amusing."

There is another side to the question, however. Quite a number of the Generals and Colonels of the army have been and are still serving on details in the various bureaus of the War Department and are required to mount nothing more fracions than a high stool and "sit" nothing more difficult to manage than an office chair.

The humorous aspect of the affair, moreover, is revealed when considered from another viewpoint. A Colonel on the retired list gets a salary of about \$2,500 a year with absolutely nothing to do. Most of them are fairly well off and such an annuity, supplemented with their other sources of revenue will enable them to live the aristocratic life of "retired gentlemen," as completely as if they had been "born in the purple" and inherited dukedoms and baronies.

In other words it is broadly suspected that a good many of the failures to meet the horseback test were by design. A colonel in the army at the age of fifty-five, for example, has little chance of promotion unless he happens to be a Presidential favorite, under the regulations which retire him at the age of sixty-three.

Roosevelt is really a wonder. Everybody laughs at him and yet no man in or out of Congress has the temerity to antagonize him. In his recent faux pas in the naval affair there was ample opportunity to make him beg for mercy.

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CANNON BALL HOUSE.

An Old Colonial Mansion on the Schuylkill River.

Although it lies on the west bank of the Schuylkill, none of the old timers in "the Neck" were unfamiliar with the traditions of the Cannon Ball House, which stands some distance from Penrose Ferry road and about half or three-quarters of a mile west of the Penrose Ferry bridge.

While Col. William Bradford, the printer and newspaper publisher, was in command of the fort near the house, known during the Revolution as Mud Fort and later as Fort Mifflin, the fortification was attacked by the British in force. This was at the battle of Red Bank, in October, 1778.

On the old map of Scull & Heap, published in 1780, the house is shown lying in the township of Kingessing, on what is called Carpenter's Island. It is called Blakeley's house and was the only one in the vicinity. The date of the building is not readily ascertained, but from the character of the brick employed in its construction it is evidently of great age, dating from the early years of the eighteenth century.

The richest woman in Great Britain is Miss Emily Charlotte Talbot, who owns two magnificent estates which she inherited from her father, worth about \$7,000,000.

Birds, when perched on trees or bushes, are natural weathercocks, as they invariably turn their heads to the wind.

The finger of scorn may be depended upon to come to the point.

OUR SLAVIC FELLOW CITIZENS.

Attitude of the Bohemians and Poles in American Politics.

American politics are for the most part quite as much a matter of purely local interest as Polish or Croatian politics could possibly be. Since the days of the anti-slavery movement, which enlisted the generous sympathies of the old generation, of liberal immigrants, our politics have involved few questions of general interest apart from some of our present social economic issues.

While the conviction that American politics are corrupt draws in some men it keeps others out. As a Slavic minister said to me: My people are not interested in politics they say "Das ist mehr Geldsache."

As to political affiliations both parties count Slavs as members. In the antebellum days the slavery issue tended to draw Bohemians and poles both of whom supplied gallant soldiers to the Union, into the Republican ranks. It is interesting to find that the Poles voted for Grant in 1872, the first election in which they were notably interested.

In many places their vote is an important consideration. In the Illinois State campaign in 1906 both Republicans and Democrats nominated a Pole for the office of State Treasurer. One of these nominees had already served in Chicago as Alderman and as City attorney.

How They Beat the Glover. The "Drapers' Record" has been putting its finger on a weak spot in feminine honesty, to which it has given the ingenious name of "glove nailing."

It appears that a good many ladies will put on a pair of gloves and wear them for a whole evening, by which time the "bloom" has quite been taken off them and then they will discover some defect, on the strength of which they will demand a new pair from the unfortunate manufacturer.

No doubt something of this kind not infrequently happens, and no doubt, also, the real cause of the trouble often lies, as they suggest in the fact that a lady who owns a six and a quarter hand insists on endeavoring to thrust it into a five three quarter glove.

A GIRL'S CHARITY VAUDEVILLE.

Incidentally They Had a Great Deal of Fun.

Recently a coteries of girls, bearing of a poor family left destitute on the death of the father, determined to help them in some way, finally deciding to have an evening of variety entertainment. One girl was asked to give some imitations, which she did very cleverly; another sang, and two or three of the boys and girls did a very clever take off from one of the comic operas which was not at all hard and afforded a great deal of enjoyment.

Silk and Satin for Garnitures.

It is not surprising to find many handsome dresses embellished with stitched bands of soft satin and silk, since these fabrics are scheduled among the leading garnitures for the season. Black and white combinations have always



An appealing charm and a splendid effect is gained in this gown of white French chalis, stitched with bands of Cluny lace and black satin. The skirt is laid in plaits all around the figure and the lace and satin arranged at the bottom in stipples, though fetching fashion. At the waist is a suggestion of the Empire modes, which are gradually dying out, except for girdles, vests, etc.

Falling over the girdles the blouse is trimmed with Cluny lace, applied at the front and forming the yoke. Fllet is mixed with the Cluny in the brette effect and is stitched on either side with three rows of black satin.

The newest house gowns of soft, silky fabrics have all of the skirts falling in clinging folds under slightly abbreviated waists. With this are worn bodices softly pliated and trimmed sparsely, though effectively with the laces of fashion. A stitched trimming about the bottom of a skirt lends it weight, and weight is an important need of the thin, semi-transparent skirt.

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